

From: golubicv2@attbi.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 11:55am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir/Madam:

I just wanted to comment on the Microsoft matter with respect to "pending" matters in the courts.

I feel as a consumer that Microsoft has been a strong American company and has helped to "standardize" the disparate software in the PC industry over the last 10 years. Competitors such as AOL (who BTW appear one again to be against "standardization") are not happy with a "large systems integrator" concept, which by default in the software industry goes to the Most Aggressive Company ..in this case Microsoft. Most Microsoft products I purchase are "fairly priced". In fact SUN's compilers and tools were once "way more expensive" than Microsoft products, but thanks to the "Microsoft Trial" their SUN product line "price" has improved "considerably" for consumers. Microsofts' has always been in the \$100-500 range...I was mystified as to why "consumers were hurt" as SUN claimed. (they were probably jealous of volume)

However aggressive Microsoft has been, it HAS helped to achieve standardization, which the PC industry needed to "get off the ground" and bring "mass market" consumer awareness to many things, PC desktop, Common Operating Environment, Office tools, etc all of which operate "together" with a forward vision that DOES include many growth opportunities for smaller competitors. I know of many small vendors who "need" standardization that Microsoft provides as a "defacto large systems integrator" for consumers. AOL, who makes only a Browser (purchased for \$10B from Netscape) and its AOL instant messenger are only TWO products. This is not enough to "standardize an industry" and consumers like myself (who are also software developers) are aware of this and keep Microsoft in the "lead role" by spending our consumer dollars for "better integration"...what in fact consumers vote for with their \$\$\$.

When AOL makes products that "hit all bases" as far as "developers need" I'll buy more AOL products...right now they have a limited product line...who's fault is that???? If \$10Billion were spent in the right place it may not have happen as it did.

If they (AOL) want to be a "large systems integrator" in "consumers minds" they they should compete by trying to "bring together" lots of smaller companies as Microsoft has done well as a platform and help consumers "see this" instead of just complaining and trying to do this "via other means"...thinking the browser is the "only thing" that consumers "see" ...in fact alot more goes on in terms of data, binaries and libraries that make an "integrated product" which microsoft has been far "better at doing" than AOL and their "vision".

end of comments.

+vfg

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